M.L. Snowden

Mary Louise Snowden (born March 15, 1952), known professionally as M.L. Snowden (/m'l' snow' den signed as M.L. Snowden) is an internationally recognized American sculptor and bronze metallurgist who has won globally significant awards and commissions.[1] The sculptor is known for her *Geological Coreium* collection of bronzes.[2] She is considered among the greatest figurative sculptors of the 20th and 21st centuries.[3][4][5]

The Geological Coreium

Snowden's *Geological Coreium* oeuvre is a unique statement in American and international art by way of the sculptor inventing new processes, techniques, formulas and compositional constructions that advance the metallurgical art and science of lost wax bronze.[6][7] Snowden's *Geological Coreium* conceptualizes the human figure to describe otherwise abstract geological and scientific phenomena in relationship to humankind's impact on earth's environment and the cosmos. [8]

The *Geological Coreium* remains M.L. Snowden's largest sculptural oeuvre, encompassing separate collections of multiple bronzes that have been divided into more than 18 chapters. [9] The *Geological Coreium* is assessed by appraisers and curators to be among the most extensive fine art bronze collections created in the latter half of the 20th century and in the first decades of the Millennium.[10][11][12] M.L. Snowden ranks among the millennium's most collected contemporary figurative sculptors, with more than 2,000 *Geological Coreium* limited-edition bronzes held in private and public collections worldwide.[13][14] [15] T

Selections from the Geological Coreium



Valentin, Cambrian and Devonian Sea Fans
Fournier Variegated Platinum Bonze

MLS Collection Trust, AU Australia



Fournier Platinum Bronze
Meyer Collection USA



Fournier Platinum Bronze

Butler Institute of American Art USA



Fournier D'Or Bronze

M.L. Snowden Institute USA



Sea Creates

Fournier Platinum Bronze

Ricardo Brennand Museum Institute Brazil



Fournier Platinum Bronze Anderson Collection Canada



Cataclasis Study

Fournier Platinum Brun Bronze

Hakone Open-Air Museum Japan



Fournier Platinum Bronze Spencer Collection UK England



Fournier Platinum Rosso Bronze City Center Plaza USA



Fournier Platinum Bronze
Werther Collection Germany



Geode Falling Fragment

Amethyst & Fournier Platinum



Verdura
Fournier Platinum Brun Bronze
Dumas Collection France



M.L. Snowden

Born Mary Louise Snowden Hollywood, California U.S.A.

Parents George Holburn Snowden Sculptor (1901-1990)

Dr. Louise Adel Weider Snowden (Illington) (1911-1998)

Siblings George Snowden II (1945-2002)

Children Jack Snowden (1988 -)

Occupation Sculptor

Art Websites

www. mlsnowdenart.com

www. mlsnowden.com

www. mlsnowdeninstitute.com

Art Signature M.L. Snowden

Seal



Movement: Neo-Figurative Art

Impact

M.L. Snowden is recognized for breaking down barriers for women's achievements in heavy metal arts and creative disciplines in otherwise male dominated fields.[16][17][18] Snowden is known for working alone in crafting all of her work without models or assistants in the clay stage, while carrying out the major steps of crafting heavy bronzes in her foundries located in Los Angeles, California and in Paris, France.[19] Snowden has developed innovations that have influenced the art and science of Lost Wax Bronze as the inventor of advanced metallurgical techniques and processes.[20][21]



Detail Clay Stage: M.L. Snowden's Ion

Early Life

M.L. Snowden was born in Hollywood, California at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center at 6:00 am. Her father was the sculptor, George Holburn Snowden. [22] Her mother was Louise Adel Snowden (nee' Weider). M.L. Snowden's mother was professionally known as the stage and film actress, Louise Illington. [23] Her mother also pursued advanced work as a doctor of biochemistry, developing natural skincare and consumer products. [24] M.L. Snowden had one brother, George, who was a financial investor, advisor, and humanitarian philanthropist. M.L. Snowden's second-father mentor growing up was Chief Nipo Strongheart of the Yakima Nation. [25]



M.L. Snowden's *Ion*Fournier Platinum Bronze

MLS Collection Trust AU Australia

Early Sculpture Education

The artist was raised and trained in the sculpture studios of her father. [26][27] G. H. Snowden's national landmark sculpture commissions fueled her early aspiration to become a professional sculptor. [28][29][30] She took her first sculpture lessons from her father as he was sculpting the main altar and exterior statuary for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. [31]

Early Mentors and Education

M.L. Snowden's art education was encouraged by her father's professional colleagues, Paul Manship and Isamu Noguchi. [32] She benefitted from personal art instruction from Salvador Dali [33][34]who remained a family friend from the time her father and Dali created artwork for the 1939 New York World's Fair. She also received personal art instruction and future art career encouragement from Walt Disney.[35] Walt Disney inspired her at the time her father was an Imagineer, creating most of the sculptural enlargements for Walt's original Disneyland theme park. [36][37] As a young woman with an interest in experimenting with colored bronze patinas, she studied color theory with the originator of Synchromism, the painter, Stanton MacDonald-Wright. [38] She later studied with Macdonald-Wright's protégé, Pauline Khuri-Majoli at Loyola Marymount University where M.L. Snowden was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in painting and sculpture in 1974, as one of the first women enrolled on campus.[39][40][41] Additionally, M.L. Snowden studied drawing at Otis College of Art and Design with the Black American draughtsman, Charles Wilbert White.[42] Early on, she received artistic encouragement from the Black American sculptor, Richmond Barthe'.[43]



Celestial Matrix by M.L. Snowden
Oil and Gesso on Linden Wood
Private Collection, USA

Women Mentors

M.L. Snowden's sculptural compositions for the *Geological Coreium* were influenced through a decade of studying **Chopin**'s piano music with the feminist pianist, composer, and conductor, **Ethel Leginska**.[44][45][46] The sculptor's first art exhibition was hosted by *The Los Angeles Patrons of the Fine Arts Foundation* headed by **Dorothy Buffum Chandler**. Her first show with the *Patrons* was organized by the silent-era film star and women's self-help author, **Margery Wilson**, who championed Snowden's early art.[47][48] The artist was inspired by her women mentors including sculptor **Malvina Hoffman**; where Malvina's own sculpture career had been encouraged by **Auguste Rodin**.[49]



Detail: *Celestial Array* by M.L. Snowden

The Rodin Legacy

M.L Snowden is considered to be the last living methods heir of the French sculptor, Auguste Rodin, since she employs a range of proprietary Rodin chemical formulas, building and modelling methods in her work. [50] [51][52] [53] Snowden's Rodin chemical formulas include the historic Fournier Platinum Patina which she uses extensively on her bronzes. [54] Snowden inherited Rodin's tools, techniques, formulas from her father who was taught by the Rodin specialist, Robert Georges Eberhard at Yale University. [55] Prior to World War I, Eberhard had been a professional assistant and friend to Rodin in his Paris studios.[56] In 1916 in the interest of furthering education, Rodin bequeathed a collection of his tools to Eberhard who was emigrating to America to take up his teaching position at Yale University. Eberhard came to serve as both professor and Chairman of Yale University's School of Sculpture as well as the Director of Archives from 1917 to 1952. Robert Eberhard gifted Rodin's tools to M.L. Snowden's father on his winning the American Prix de Rome of 1927. [57][58][59] Inheriting Rodin's tools on the death of her father in 1990, [60] today Snowden uses Rodin's loop tool #8 in creating her clay work because of the tool's unique helix serrated structure.[61] [62] [63] [64]



M.L. Snowden at work in her foundry, Pa

Franc

Post Graduate Grants to Europe and Awards

In 1974, M.L. Snowden won the *TRY Foundation Post-Graduate Grant for European Studies* at the **Conservatorio Dall'Abaco** in Italy.[65] Winning a second **Redken** Foundation grant presented by **Paula Meehan**, M.L. Snowden undertook independent art studies at the **Louvre** in Paris, the **Galleria dell'Accademia** in Venice, the **Uffizi** in Florence and at the **Vatican Collections** in Rome.[66][67] Her extended European experience earned Snowden a range of European sculptural prizes and distinctions, including an Honorary Doctor of Arts degree.[68] Back in America, she was elected to serve on the national board of the women's scholars honors society, **Kappa Gamma Pi**, where she concepted and aided the establishment of the *Cornaro Scholarship* for post graduate studies.[69]

In 1989, M.L. Snowden won America's foremost sculpture prize, the first inaugural *Alex Ettl Grant* for "Lifetime Achievement in American Sculpture" presented by the National Sculpture Society.[70][71] In 1992, she exhibited her bronze "Cataclasis Study" and was named winner of the *International Rodin Grand Prize Monumental Figure Competition* held in **Tokyo, Japan**.[72] The *International Rodin Competition* was hosted by the embassies of 32 nations, including France, Spain and England. The prize was held at **Hakone Open-Air Museum**, with the museum acquiring Snowden's "Cataclasis Study" for their permanent collection.[73][74] In 1998 and 2004, the sculptor was awarded two consecutive Carano Gordon Atlanta Commissions to create her vision for experimental bronzes that are now part of the Geological Corieum collection.[75] Additionally, M.L. Snowden was awarded the Presidential Order of Merit "for humanitarian contributions to the art of sculpture" presented by the Academy of the Fine Arts Foundation.[76]

Monuments and Installations

The Golden Angels of Los Angeles

M.L. Snowden is the sculptor of the 8-ton Main Altar of the \$200 million Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels located in Los Angeles's downtown Civic Center. Chosen from a field of 8,000 international sculptors,[77] Snowden was commissioned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the Vatican in Rome.[78] M.L. Snowden designed and created four golden Archangels that float around the Rosso Laguna marble main altar through a mathematical suspension system that was developed by the sculptor.[78] "The Great Golden Angels of Los Angeles" is considered to be the largest gilt-on-bronze ecclesiastical installation of the modern era.[79] From her father's collaboration with A. A. Weinman who was a protégé of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, who in turn was the sculptor of the Gold Liberty Dollar, [80] M.L. Snowden's Golden Angels of the Main Altar carry forward Saint-Gaudens' techniques for casting gold-on-bronze objects. [81] The Cathedral and its Main Altar Angels were dedicated by Saint Pope John Paul II in 2002.[82]



Detail Clay Stage: M.L. Snowden's Archangel of the Main Altar

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

History: The Holy Reliquary

M.L. Snowden's work historically constitutes the first group of angels for a permanent setting in the history of the City of Los Angeles. [83] [84] *The Golden Angels of Los Angeles* historically fulfills **Alta California Governor Pío Pico's** desire to commission a group of Los Angeles angels in 1834.[85] Notably, Snowden's *Golden Angels* hover over the cathedral's *Holy Reliquary of Saints* that includes the **relics** of **Saint Francis of Assisi**, **Saint Patrick** and America's first Native American Saint, **Kateri Tekakwitha**. M.L. Snowden's planning drawings were added to the Vatican Collections in Rome.[86][87][88]



The Deposition of Christ by M.L. Snowden:

A Meditation on the Holy Reliquary

Graphite on paper



The Main Altar: The Golden Angels of Los Angeles

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles



Detail, M.L. Snowden's Archangel of the Main Altar



M.L. Snowden's Archangel Michael Planning Drawing graphite on paper, Vatican Collections, Rome

The Los Angeles Angelic Frieze

M.L. Snowden's singular bronze pane, "The Los Angeles Angelic Frieze," is permanently installed in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels' Visitors Center.[90] The Frieze is an 11-foot bronze 1-ton bronze wall panel and was sculpted with Rodin's tool #8.[91] The Frieze is a bas-relief element with a 4-inch depth that was sculpted as a preliminary study in order to establish the composition of the Golden Angels of the Main Altar. [92][93] From left to right, the composition features Archangels Michael, Raphael, Ariel, and Gabriel.



The Los Angeles Angelic Frieze/pictured with two M.L. Snowden 3-D Angel bronze studies



Detail, The Los Angeles Angelic Frieze, Fournier Platinum Bronze by M.L. Snowden

Visitors Center, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

ssVisitors Center, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

Gersten Pavilion: The Albert Gersten Memorial

The Albert Gersten Memorial is the focal point of the lobby of the Gersten Pavilion at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.[94] Completed in 1981, the Gersten Memorial represents an early work of the sculptor in her 20's.[95] Cast in Platinum Rosso Fournier bronze and featuring the sculptor's innovative silk burnishing technique, the central commissioned portrait bust of Albert Gersten is encased in a polished travertine setting.[96]



The Albert Gersten Memorial

Fournier Platinum Rosso Bronze

Gersten Pavilion, LMU Los Angeles



Albert Gersten portrait bronze
Gersten Pavilion, LMU Los Angeles



Detail: The Albert Gersten Memorial by M.L. Snowden
Gersten Pavilion, LMU Los Angeles

Cataclasis at Hannon Library

Permanently installed in the lobby of LMU's Hannon Library, *Cataclasis Study* evokes three states of energy: The *Latent*, the *Emerging* and the *Active*.[97] The sculptor in concert with contemporary geological science increasingly views planet earth as a living organism, with its rock and soil structures following the same aging patterns as biological human life forms.[98][99] In this scaled study, planetary energy is conveyed dimensionally where Snowden's *Latent* icon embodies old age, *Active* embraces middle age, and the *Emerging* element equates to youth. [100] As a contemporary metallurgist, M.L. Snowden invented the specialized foundry wax that has enabled *Cataclasis Study* to be cast as a complex lost wax bronze.[101][102]



Cataclasis Study



Detail: M.L. Snowden's Cataclasis Study



Cataclasis Study: Foundry Planning Drawing,, Graphite on Paper by M.L. Snowden

Brookgreen Sculpture Gardens Museum, South Carolina

William H. Hannon Library, Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles

The Glendale Civic Monument

M.L. Snowden's bronze metallurgy is evidenced in Glendale California's Civic Monument.[103][104] In the sculptor's vision for the *Geological Coreium*, the monument takes its name from the igneous geological formation of a "Shield Protectite." [105] Known as the "Shield," the composition features a vertical human icon that holds back chaos in the form a 2-ton abstract bronze mass.[106] The 10-ton 20-foot high monument was installed in Glendale's \$56 million civic plaza in support of the Glendale Police Department's Widows and Orphans Fund.[107] The monument also features four base-mounted basrelief bronze portraits of fallen officers who died in the line of duty. [108] The monument was funded with donations from the community and a variety of philanthropic sources including the Walt Disney Corporation. [109] Walt's brother, Roy Disney supported the monument's Widow's and Orphans Fund *Campaign* that was also aided by the organized efforts of Marty Sclar.[110]



The Glendale Civic Monument: Shield Protectite City of Glendal., California, USA



Detail: The Glendale Civic Monument: "The Shield City of Glendal., California, USA



The Glendale Civic Monument: Shield Protectite Fournier Platinum bronze City of Glendale, California USA

The Gate of Heaven Installation

Creation's Gate is a bronze free-standing screen bas-relief wall panel that conceptually ideates creation's cosmic portal.[111] The obverse of the panel features regions of the Architrave, the Astragal and the Empowered Domains.[112] The reverse side of the panel structuralizes non-objective abstraction. Creation's Gate communicates sensory emotion through non-definitive figurative passages modelled in basso-relievo juxtaposed to high-relief marcottage. The installation was debuted in Chapel 5 located within the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles' downtown civic center. The bronze remains a commission of the Hao Family. [113]



Detail: The Archairave of Creation's Gate Chapel No. 5, Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles



Detail: Clay Stage Surmount of Creation's Gate Chapel No. 5, Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels,

Los Angeles



Fournier Platinum D'Or Aureate Bronze Chapel No. 5, Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

Creation's Gate Installation

Installations: Originals

While the Geological Coreium has been largely created and cast as bronze limited editions, the sculptor's private focus of work since the year 2000 has been creating original one-of-a-kind sculptures. These original designs carry forward the artist's earliest intention to evince a plethora of visionary conceptions imagined since the 1970's. Such sculptures are classed as originals alongside M.L. Snowden's scaled installation enlargements. Housed in both public and private domains, M.L. Snowden's original sculptures are known to be cast in bronze along with other mediums including carved marble, Safran Argile Cuite and other advanced ceramic mediums. These sculptures have been appraised as commanding the highest valuations and rarely appear on the secondary art market. [114] [115] [116]



Omega Nebula Enlarged (Original) Fournier Platinum Bronze Yu Private Collection, Singapore



Fournier Platinum Bonze Adler Collection AU Australia



Infinitum Enlarged (Original) Fournier Platinum Bonze Private Collection, Canada

Social Perspectives

The humanitarian resonance of M.L. Snowden's figurative sculpture is recognized in therapeutic medical centers and research institutions in works such as bronze "Genesis" mounted in the lobby of the Noris Cancer Center at the University of Southern California.[117][118] Hospitals and healthcare facilities permanently display M.L. Snowden sculptures such as the Ira Kaufman Founder's Memorial at Centinela Hospital Medical Center; [119][120] the M.L. Snowden Bronze Collection at the Eisenhower Medical Center; [121] [122] along with other healthcare organizations. [123] [124] Biomed entrepreneur, Henri Termeer, founder of the genetics research institute Genzyme, commissioned M.L. Snowden's "Helix X" and "Helix Y" for corporate headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts. [125] [126]



Genesis: Permanent installation at the Jane Anne Nohl Cancer Center

Detail: M.L. Snowden's Genesis Keck Medical Center, University of Southern California



Fournier Platinum Bronze Genzyme Headquarters, Cambridge,

Fournier Platinum Brun Bronze Keck Medical Center, University of Southern California

The societal impact of M.L. Snowden's art was recognized when bronze "Cataclasis Study" was added to the White House in 2006. [127] [128] In 2012, M.L. Snowden's art joined the HRM Queen Elizabeth II Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace in commemoration of her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. [129] [130] [131] In support of higher education, M.L. Snowden bronze collections can be found at the University of Missouri; [132] Biola University Library; [133] Soka University of America and Japan; [134] [135] along with other colleges and universities. The ML Snowden Collection Trust was established in Australia upon the comprehensive Australian acquisition of every example of M.L. Snowden's Geological Coreium.[136]



Allovia Fournier Platinum Verde Bronze Loyola Marymount University USA



Ira Kaufman Founder's Memorial Marble









Fournier Platinum Bronze University of Missouri USA

Centinela Hospital Medical Center

Fournier Platinum Bronze Eisenhower Medical Center USA

Soka University of America and Japan

Sculptures of the Geological Coreium (Partial List) [137]

Terrestrial Forum

Cataclasis Study

Cataclasis Emerging Energy Grande

Cataclasis Active Energy Grande

Cataclasis Latent Energy Grande

Tectonics

Tectonics Europe Element

Verdura

Genesis

Rhexodus

Igneous Shield Protectite

Igneous Shield Protectite Monumental

Lava

The Nebulae Trilogy

Orion Nebubla

Omega Nebula

The Muses

The Golden Group

Infinitum

Golden Spiral

Octahedron

The Golden Triangle

The Aquasphere

Water Mirror/Miriam Shelter of Moses

Aquascape

Hydromene

Watersource

Aquascape II

The Angels of Los Angeles

Altar Angel of the North

Altar Angel of the South

Altar Angel of the East

Altar Angel of the West

Clay Angel of the South Maquette

Clay Angel of the West

Los Angeles Angel Frieze

Early Angel of Verona

The Angelic Quartet

Archangel Ariel Archangel Raphael

Archangel Michael

Archangel Gabriel

Storm Trilogy

Ion

Windscarf

Rainpillar

Nival Triad

Glacier

Premia

Wave

Hydrosphere

Sea Creates

Pacific Seawall

Cambrian Sea Fan

Valentin Sea Fan

Devonian Sea Fan

Aqualar

Foundations of Synergy

Stasis

Gravity

Seismic Ray

Empire of Light

Angstrom

Photon Lightwave

Lightsurge

Lumino

Lumina

Lumino and Lumina

Halo

Nimbus

Lightspire

Luminarc

Creation's Gate

Creation's Gate

Gate of Heaven

Creation

Cytoblast

Inspira

Creatia

Questa

Celestial Array

Meteorite

Lunas

Polaris

Solaris

Heliocore

Sirius

Brilliance Trilogy

Antares

Altair

Atria

Atmosphere

Ventifact I (Striver)

Ventifact II

Combinant Helix X and Y

The Helix X

The Helix Y

Ascension of Elements

Alluvia

Caldera

Aeolia

Terra

Amethyst Geode Arcelleon

Amethyst Geode Grand Casement I

Amethyst Geode Stabilized Fragment II

Amethyst Geode Impact Fragment III

Amethyst Geode Falling Fragment IV

Museums and Collections (partial list) [138]

Saint Pope John Paul II Collection Vatican Collections, Rome, Italy

Genzyme Institute/Sanophi Cambridge, MA USA

University of Missouri's Ellis Grand Reading Room Columbia, Missouri

George AV Dunning Gallery William Hannon Library Hao Family Bequest Gersten Pavilion Loyola Marymount University Los Angeles, CA USA

Soka University of America and Japan Aliso Viejo, California, and Japan

Eisenhower Medical Center of California Palm Desert, California

Catholic Archdiocese Los Angeles, California Centinela Hospital Medical Center Inglewood, California

City of Glendale Civic Monument Glendale, California, USA

The Norris Cancer Center, the Jane Anne Nohl Center for Blood Diseases Keck Medical Center, University of Southern California, Los Angeles

The Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, USA

Butler Institute of American Art Youngstown, OH USA

Hakone Open-Air Museum Japan

City of Carson, California

The George W. Bush Whitehouse Washington, D.C.

Brookgreen Sculpture Museum and Gardens Murrels Inlet, SC USA

Westmont Ridley-Tree Museum Santa Barbara, CA USA

HRM Queen Elizabeth II/Royal Collection Trust Buckingham Palace, London, England

Museum of Modern Art closed Hot Springs, AK USAb

Ricardo Brennand Museum Institute Recife, Brazil

Biola University La Mirada, California

The ML Snowden Art Trust of Australia

External links

Media

Snowden's art is recorded in video documentaries including the seniors' community of Canada at Williston [131] and Snowden's "Universal Covid-19 Memorial, the Gate of Heaven." [132] A selection of earth-centric environmental bronzes are documented in the video, "The Works of M.L. Snowden." [133]

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• <u>Videos of works on Vimeo</u> lon on Vimeo /YouTube

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ML Snowden's Humanitarian Bronzes at the Williston, Canada https://youtu.be/oNkWKWIwuEs

The Gates of Heaven by Sculptor ML Snowden https://youtu.be/kAj_oXUxgHQ

MLSnowden and The Legacy of Rodin on Vimeo
"Cataclasis Study" Bronze by M.L. Snowden on Vimeo
"Golden Spiral" Bronze by M.L. Snowden on Vimeo
Orion on Vimeo
Angstrom on Vimeo
Windscarf on Vimeo
Alluvia on Vimeo

Gravity on Vimeo

Caldera on Vimeo

Lunas on Vimeo

Meteorite on Vimeo

CambrianSeaFan on Vimeo

Genesis on Vimeo

helixX on Vimeo

helixXY on Vimeo

Tectonics on Vimeo

Rainpillar on Vimeo

Rhexodus on Vimeo

Polaris on Vimeo

Lunas on Vimeo

Terra on Vimeo

around the world on Vimeo

Windscarf on Vimeo

ValentinSeaFan on Vimeo

Omega on Vimeo

AngelicQ on Vimeo

ML Snowden at Angela King Gallery 2011 - YouTube

Shield on Vimeo

Aeolia on Vimeo

Solaris on Vimeo

Nimbus on Vimeo

halo on Vimeo

Amethyst2 on Vimeo

Amethyst1 on Vimeo

DevonianSeaFan on Vimeo

The Works of M.L. Snowden on Vimeo

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